

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T MADRID 0530

EXDIS

FOR USDEL MCCLOSKEY AND HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, US

SUBJ: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONSIDERATION OF US-SPANISH

DRAFT TREATY

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING THIS MORNING, AND WHILE I WAS STILL IN THE NEGOTIATING SESSION AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA SENT WORD THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ME.
2. AREILZA SAID THAT AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, HE HAD MADE A LENGTHY PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE DRAFT TREATY AND HIGHLIGHTED THE MANY BENEFITS TO SPAIN. HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THE ONE PRINCIPAL UNDECIDED ISSUE WAS A DATE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE SUBMARINES. FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION, HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY THE STRONGLY NEGATIVE REACTION OF ONE OF THE MILITARY MINISTERS (WHOM HE DID NOT IDENTIFY). THE MINISTER HAD SHARPLY CRITICIZED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE NEW TREATY AND SAID THAT IT WAS NO BETTER, AND EVEN POSSIBLE WORSE THAN THE 1970 AGREEMENT. HE ALSO CRITICIZED THE HASTE WITH WHICH THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED. IN PARTICULAR, HE SPOKE ABOUT HIS DESBELIEF THAT THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO DE-NUCLEARIZE IN SPAIN.

3. AREILZA SAID THAT HE HAD BRIEFLY REPLIED THAT SPAIN FACED

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THREE OPTIONS: ONE WAS NEUTRALITY WHICH WAS A PASSIVE POLICY

WHICH COULD BRING SPAIN NOTHING; THE OTHER WAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION; THE THIRD WAS A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. HE BELIEVED THAT SPAIN HAD ONLY ONE REALISTIC CHOICE TO MAKE AND THAT WAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. AREILZA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN SUPPORTED FULLY IN HIS PRESENTATION BY INTERIOR MINISTER FRAGA, FINANCE MINISTER VILLAR MIR AND JUSTICE MINISTER GARRIGUES. AT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION DEVOTED TO THE DRAFT TREATY, PRIME MINISTER ARIAS HAD CONCLUDED BY GIVING AREILZA AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT FURTHER IN REPLY TO THE MILITARY MINISTER, BUT AREILZA HAD NOT DONE SO SINCE HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO THE FULL EXPOSITION HE HAD GIVEN EARLIER.

4. AREILZA TOLD ME THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (AS WELL AS THE KING WHOM HE HAD BRIEFED AT AN EARLIER STAGE) APPROVED THE CONCLUSION OF A TREATY WITH THE US. HOWEVER, HE MADE AN URGENT APPEAL THAT HE BE GIVEN SATISFACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE DATE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE NUCLEAR SUBMARINES. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IF HE COULD OBTAIN OUR AGREEMENT TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SUBMARINES BY JANUARY 1,1979, HIS PROBLEMS WITH THE SPANISH MILITARY OVER THE TREATY WOULD BE GREATLY EASED.

5. I TOLD AREILZA THAT, AS HE KNEW, THIS WOULD BE A MATTER WHICH COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED BY THE SECRETARY AND THAT I WOULD INFORM THE SECRETARY AT ONCE CONCERNING HIS ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING.

6. AREILZA EXPRESSED THE URGENT HOPE THAT I MIGHT RECEIVE SOME INSTRUCTION BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY CONCERNING THIS POINT.
STABLER

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